

OPINION 2327 (Case 3570)***Curculio scirpi* Fabricius, 1792 (currently *Notaris scirpi*; Insecta, Coleoptera, CURCULIONOIDEA, ERIRHINIDAE): precedence given over *Curculio rhamni* Herbst, 1784 and *C. scirpi* Rossi, 1790**

Abstract. The Commission has conserved the specific name *Curculio scirpi* Fabricius, 1792 (currently *Notaris scirpi*; CURCULIONOIDEA, ERIRHINIDAE) by giving it precedence over a little-used older name *C. rhamni* Herbst, 1784, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms, and by suppressing the little-used senior homonym *C. scirpi* Rossi, 1790.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Coleoptera; CURCULIONOIDEA; ERIRHINIDAE; *Curculio*; *Notaris*; *Notaris scirpi*; *Notaris rhamni*; *Curculio scirpi*; weevil; Palaeartic.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power:
 - (a) precedence is given to the specific name *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, over the name *rhamni* Herbst, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio rhamni*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) the specific name *scirpi* Rossi, 1790, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of both the Principle of Priority and the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *rhamni* Herbst, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio rhamni*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *rhamni* Herbst, 1784, as published in the binomen *Curculio rhamni*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi*, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The name *scirpi* Rossi, 1790, as published in the binomen *Curculio scirpi* and as suppressed in (1)(b) above is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3570

An application asking the Commission to conserve the name *Curculio scirpi* Fabricius, 1792 for a common Palaeartic weevil species currently belonging to the genus *Notaris* (CURCULIONOIDEA, ERIRHINIDAE) was received from R. Caldara (*Milano, Italy*), H. Winkelmann (*Berlin, Germany*) and M.A. Alonso-Zarazaga (*Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (CSIC), Madrid, Spain*) on 2 July 2011. After correspondence the case was published in BZN **68**: 267–270. The title, abstract and

keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. A comment in support was published in BZN 70(3).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 June 2013 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN (68: 268–269). At the close of the voting period on 1 September 2013 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 19: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Halliday, Harvey, Kottelat, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Minelli, Rosenberg, Štys, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 3: Grygier, Lim and Minelli.

Split votes – 2: Fautin FOR (1)(a), (2)(a); AGAINST (1)(b), (2)(b), 3; Kojima AGAINST (1)(a), FOR (1)(b).

Ng, Patterson and Pyle were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Bouchet commented that in 2002, the name *Curculio rhamni* Herbst, 1784, qualified as a nomen oblitum against *Curculio scirpi* Fabricius, 1792. Usage of *rhamni* by Krivets & Legalov (2002) and Telnov (2004) thus violated Article 23.9, which states that prevailing usage must be maintained (not that it 'may' be maintained). Krivets & Legalov (2012) and Telnov (2004) thus could not be taken as examples of legitimate, post-1899, usages of the name *Curculio rhamni* Herbst, 1784 (see Article 23.9.6, which states that 'The deliberate use of a name contrary to Article 23.9.1 [. . .] must not be taken into account in determining usage'. Voting AGAINST, Grygier said that although the history of the establishment of the other principal names involved in this case was given in detail, also for their name-bearing types, this was not done for *Curculio scirpi* Fabricius, 1792. Without that sort of information the case seemed incomplete. He added that it was not even clear to the reader that Fabricius had indeed proposed *scirpi* as a new species, and that he did not just reuse Rossi's name *C. scirpi*. He added: 'Also, since the two homonymous species are now regarded as synonyms (the subjectivity of the synonymy being to some degree overridden by the explicit choice of a neotype also assignable to Fabricius's species), and since "Author, date" is merely an optional adjunct to a scientific name, why not accept Rossi's 1790 authorship of the species? *C. scirpi* Rossi, 1790 is still junior to *C. rhamni*; I would vote FOR proposals (1)(a) and (2) if they were rewritten in terms of Rossi, 1790, not Fabricius, 1792; proposals similar to (1)(b) and (3) would then not be needed'. SPLITTING his vote Kojima said that it was a matter of nomenclature and would cause nomenclatural confusion if *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792 became unavailable because of its senior primary homonym *scirpi* Rossi, 1790, which had been rarely used and no type specimen for which seemed to exist. He added that, on the other hand, giving *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792 precedence over *rhamni* Herbst, 1784 was a matter of taxonomy, and that interest in the species concerned seemed to be limited to specialists of this coleopteran group. He suggested that once the synonymy of *scirpi* Fabricius, 1792 and *rhamni* Herbst, 1784 was accepted by most of these specialists, the nomenclatural change resulting from this synonymy would also be accepted and no confusion would occur.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

scirpi, *Curculio*, Fabricius, 1792, *Entomologia systematica emendata et aucta. Secundum classes, ordines, genera, species adjectis synonymis, locis, observationibus, descriptionibus*, vol. 1(2), C.G. Proft, Hafniae, p. 405.

rahamni, *Curculio*, Herbst, 1784, *Archiv der Insectengeschichte*, **5**(1): 78.

scirpi, *Curculio*, Rossi, 1790, *Fauna Etrusca sistens insecta quae in provinciis Florentina et Pisana praesertim collegit Petrus Rossius*. Tomus secundus, Liburni, Masi, p. 118.